

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 01029 091102Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1029

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FOR THE SECRETARY AND ASST SECRETARY HARTMAN ONLY

E.O.11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, SP
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH THE KING ON LABOR MATTERS

REF: MADRID 0954

1. I TOOK IRVING BROWN, THE AFL-CIO EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVE
TO SEE THE KING AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 8
IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARRANGEMENTS SET FORTH IN REFTEL.

2. BROWN EXPLAINED TO THE KING AT SOME LENGTH THE
AFL-CIO'S WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST THE FREE TRADE MOVEMENT
IN SPAIN. HE BELIEVED THAT THE UGT WAS DESERVING OF
SUPPORT FOR IT (ALONG WITH CERTAIN REGIONAL BASQUE AND CATALAN
UNIONS. WHICH MAY ULTIMATELY BE BROUGHT TO WORK CLOSELY
WITH THE UGT), APPEARED TO OFFER THE ONLY POSSIBILITY TO
OPPOSE THE COMMUNISTS LED WORKERS COMMISSIONS. BROWN
TOLD THE KING OF HIS RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH
SPANISH MINISTERS AND WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE
UGT. HE FEARED THAT UNLESS SOME ARRANGEMENTS WAS
MADE SOON TO PROVIDE THE UGT WITH MEANS TO
ESTABLISH AN ORGANIZATION THE OPPORTUNITY TO
CREATE AN OPPOSITION TO THE COMMUNIST LABOR MOVEMENT
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WOULD HAVE BEEN LOST. BROWN SUGGESTED THAT THE
AFL-CIO COULD HELP TO RAISE A BANK LOAN FOR THE
UGT AGAINST A GUARANTEE FROM THE GOVERNMENT BASED
ON THOSE HOLDINGS OF THE SUNDICAL ORGANIZATION WHICH
HAD BEFORE THE CIVIL WAS BELONGED TO THE UGT.

3. THE KING LISTED WITH CONSIDERABLE INTERESTED

TO BROW'S COMMENTS AND REPEATED HIS OWN DETERMINATION
TO ASSIST IN THE CREATION OF A FREE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT
IN SPAIN. HE EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN THAT SYNDICAL
RELATIONS MINISTER DE LA MATA DID NOT SEEM TO BE
POINTING IN A VERY PRECISE DIRECTION, ALTHOUGH HE
ADMITTED THAT HE HAD NOT TALKED WITH DIRECTLY FOR SOME TIME
THE KING EXPRESSED AGREEMENT THAT NO TIME SHOULD BE
LOST IN SHORING UP THOSE UNIONS WHICH MIGHT OPPOSE THE COMMUNISTS
AND ADDED THAT, IN HIS VIEW, THE WORKERS
COMMISSIONS PROBABLY HAD CONSIDERABLE
MEANS AT THEIR DISPOSAL.

4. THE KING EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE
OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH BROWN AND
ME AND SAID HE WOULD BE SEEING THE PRIME MINISTER
THE FOLLOWING DAY AT WHICH TIME HE WOULD TALK WITH
HIM ABOUT THE TRADE UNION ISSUE. STABLE

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Message Attributes

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